Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 04621 110230Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
H-01 HA-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /056 W
----------061337 111844Z /70
R 101643Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 4621

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: EPIFANO MENDEZ FLEITAS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8231

1. ACCORDING TO A HIGH LEVEL PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL SOURCE CONSIDERED RELIABLE, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SHORTLY AFTER ARRESTING MOPOCO LEADER MENDEZ OFFERED TO EXCHANGE HIM FOR SUSPECTED ERP LEADER AMILCAR SANTUCHO, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER DETENTION IN PARAGUAY SINCE ENTERING PARAGUAY WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS IN MAY, 1976. (SEE SEPTEL.)

2. SOURCE SAID GOP WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROPOSED SWOP SINCE IT HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MENDEZ' ARREST AND DID NOT WANT TO BE SADDLED WITH YET ANOTHER POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEM.

3. A FEW DAYS AFTER MENDEZ' ARREST, THE GOP SENT AN EMISSARY FROM J-2 (ARMY INTELLIGENCE) TO RESISTENCIA TO FIND OUT WHY MENDEZ HAD BEEN DETAINED AND IF HE HAD BEEN IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN ANTI-PARAGUAYAN OR ANTI-ARGENTINE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. HIS CONCLUSION WAS THAT MENDEZ HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITY BUT THAT THE ONLY APPARENT REASON FOR HIS DETENTION WAS THE PROPOSED DEAL INVOLVING SANTUCHO.
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THE EMISSARY HAD REPORTED MENDEZ TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MISTREATED.

4. SOURCE EXPRESSED CONCERN LEST THE EMISSARY'S VISIT TO RESISTENCIA BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND BE MISINTERPRETED ABROAD AS GOP INVOLVEMENT IN MENDEZ' ARREST.
BRIGGS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONER EXCHANGE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASUNCI04621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770417-1041
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771176/aaaacnap.tel
Line Count: 62
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUENOS AIRES 8231
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 648584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPIFANO MENDEZ FLEITAS
TAGS: SHUM, PA, AR, (SANTUCHO, AMILCAR), (MENDEZ FLEITAS, EPIFANIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d2c2f1e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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